

FARMER CITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER ~ FEBRUARY 2020 EDITION



Activities and Meetings

Focus Meeting: Feb 11th at 6:30 pm

UMW Meeting: Feb 12th at 9:00 am

Ash Wed Worship: Feb 26th at 6 pm

Community Dinner & Game Night: Feb 29th from 6-8 pm

Feed Forward: ONLY on Feb 19th & Feb 26th at 11 am this month

 Farmer City United Methodist Church

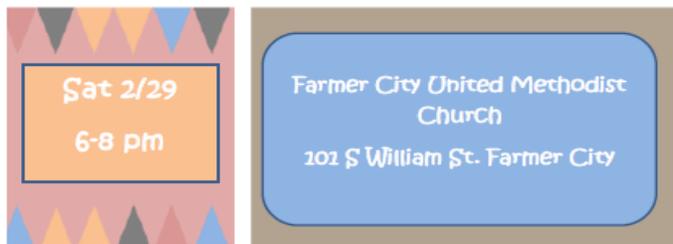
Find this newsletter on FaceBook at

<https://www.facebook.com/FarmerCityUMC/>

Guest Speakers This Month are...

Michael Madden on Feb 9th

Dan Brown on Feb 16th



- 2 Douglas Kramer
- 3 Carol Mullen
- 4 Jill Hays
- 7 Grace Williams
- 9 Heather Wendell
- Lee Galaway
- 11 Jodi Riegel
- 17 Terri Green
- 15 Todd Nafziger
- 19 Nancy McLaughlin
- 22 Phebe Galaway
- 26 Heather Howell
- 27 Will Duggins
- Sarah Bell
- 28 Sandy Boyles
- Walter Miller
- 29 Ashley Reeser

Thank you so much for all the cards and kind words of sympathy and assurance as we said our good bye from this life to Ruth Harris. These words and expressions of caring were a great comfort to our family. It is a blessing to be among a caring people. Thank you.

David and Karen Harris and Family

February Anniversaries

Feb 4th: John & Phebe Galaway



A free
**Community
Taco Dinner**
was held on Jan
21st at the
church from 6-7
pm . About 35
people joined
us for taco's.



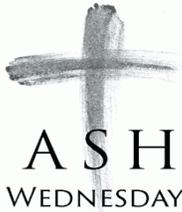
Karen Harris helped the children make taco's to take home. When asked if they had time for a group hug, they immediately wrapped the arms around each other. I guess this proves, we ALWAYS have time to HUG one another.



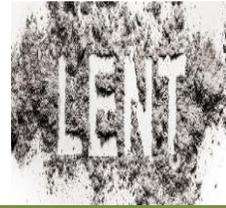
East Bay Summer Camp: Scholarships are available for all camps but need to be applied for ASAP. Camping spots are filling up quickly. Go to:
www.igrc.org/registrationforms or
www.igrc.org/camping for more information.

Youth Mission Trip

Are you or your child, (13 yrs. old or have completed 8th grade by 6/1/2020), interested in a mission trip this year? Please see Pastor Steve if you are.



Join us for *Ash Wednesday Worship*
on Feb 26th at 6 p.m. at Farmer City
United Methodist Church



History of FCUMC

by Stephanie Drake

Before Methodism

What in the world does Henry VIII have to do with the development of the Methodist denomination? Even if you're not into history, you've heard of Henry VIII—he of great girth and six wives, two of whom he had beheaded.

But first, a little backstory. One thing is clear about human history: people seldom get along well together. We create divisions more readily than unity. The Gospels were written to early churches because folks kept arguing with one another. Despite this and persecution by the Roman Empire, the good news about Jesus Christ spread throughout lands around the Mediterranean Sea.

In 312 Roman Emperor Constantine dreamt that he would be successful in war if he fought under the sign of the cross. He stopped the persecution of Christians, and decades later Christianity became the official religion of the extensive Roman Empire. Over following centuries, more and more theological and political differences between Christians in the Eastern Mediterranean and the West (Roman Empire) until the Great Schism of 1054, when the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Churches agreed to disagree, a separation that continues today.

Over the next 500 years the Roman Catholic Church was a powerful force throughout Europe, but there were always tensions. Rulers were always Roman Catholics. In 1517 Martin Luther, a German Roman Catholic monk, challenged abuses within the church. He and other Catholic reformers were called "Protestants" because they protested wrongs and also proclaimed a gospel centered on faith.

Getting back to Henry VIII, who was king of England from 1509 until his death in 1547. In the 1500s, the Pope had to approve all divorces and annulments. After 23 years of marriage to Catherine of Aragon, Henry wanted a new wife because Catherine had produced only one child who survived, and that was a girl. Henry had already fathered an illegitimate son, who was excluded from the rules of royal succession, which also recognized daughters as an undesirable last resort. After years of petitioning the Pope for an annulment, Henry separated from the Catholic Church, declared himself head of the Church in England, granted himself a divorce, and immediately married his latest mistress. Protestant reformers had already begun to infiltrate England, translating the Latin Bible into English, for instance, but their lives were always at risk, and many were executed.

For 150 years, England's Catholic rulers had Protestants killed, and Protestant rulers had Catholics killed. By the time the Wesley brothers were born shortly after 1700 to a Church of England priest, the religious divisions in England had calmed, and the Anglican Church of England was the norm. If Henry VIII had not created the Church of England, there would be no Methodists. More next month about the Wesley brothers, who were both lifelong ordained priests of the Church of England.

Michael Madden's Call to Ministry

Michael recently announced his call to ministry during his sermon on Sunday, January 12th. Michael spoke about his move to Farmer City, how important the church is to him, and how he wishes to share the love and grace of God at every opportunity he can. Michael also stated that as a pastor, he wants to be a servant of God and help others prepare to do God's work. After worship, our District Superintendent Rev. Angie Lee led a special Charge Conference asking for members to vote giving approval for Michael to become a Licensed Local Pastor. The votes were tallied and Michael was unanimously approved! Pastor Steve announced that the congregation had generously provided for all of Michael's ministerial education expenses for the year 2020.

We wish to thank those who have supported Michael and his family in his call to ministry. Michael will continue his studies for 4 ½ more years. You may wish to support Michael on his journey and if you do, simply write Michael Madden on the memo line of your check or place his name on the contribution envelope.

A New Way to Celebrate Lent by Steve Anderson

Lent is that time of the year when many Christians reflect and prepare to celebrate Easter. This year, this period falls between February 26th and April 12th. Some people use this as a time to give up something, while others begin some new activity.

How about a new way to celebrate Lent? I am proposing that each of the six weeks of Lent have a theme and that as a congregation we participate together around that theme.

I am suggesting that during the first week, (Feb 26- March 3), we all look for opportunities to **Encourage** friends, family, neighbors, coworkers etc. We all know how great we feel when people encourage us. Pay it forward and share some encouragement.

During the second week (March 4-10), look for ways to **Appreciate** people in your life through words and actions. They can be anonymous or not; your call. I'm going to try to do this through words, because the next week (March 11-17) will be a time when we look for ways to **Serve** others. This could include running an errand or some other act that meets a need someone has.

In week four (March 18-24), we will **Thank** people for things they do (or don't do) in our lives as we let them know how much they mean to us.

The fifth week (March 25 -31) will be time in which we invite people to **Explore** their relationship with God. We might start by sharing the Lenten journey with them and all the ways we have been blessed with people and experiences in life. We might share that we care for others in response to how we see God working in our lives every day. You might ask if this is something they think about. You can help them thank, believe and trust more through gentle, supportive, affirming conversation.

The final week (April 1 - 8) will be a time to **Reflect** on the experience. How has it changed you and other people? What of it do you want to continue? How do you want to change your life?

Attached is a journal with space each week to briefly record how you participated in the theme of that week. Use additional paper if you wish. I think this activity might help us better prepare to celebrate **Easter** by **Encouraging**, **Affirming**, **Serving**, **Thanking**, **Exploring** and **Reflecting**.

Lenten Journal

Use this journal to record your weekly or daily action(s) that help you complete each of the following weeks act or service. For example, Feb 26th-Mar 3rd the theme is to encourage. **Encourage** means to give support, confidence, or hope to someone. During the week, find someone to encourage and then write it down to reflect on later.

Feb 26 - Mar 3

Encourage: give support, confidence, or hope to someone

Mar 4 - Mar 10

Appreciate: show someone how they are appreciated

Mar 11 - Mar 17

Serve: do something for someone without expecting any reward

Mar 18 - Mar 24

Thank: express being pleased or grateful

Mar 25 - Mar 31

Explore: invite people to explore their relationship with God.

April 1 - April 11

Reflect: take time to reflect on this experience. How has it changed you and other people? How do you want to change your life?

Board Members and Church Committees

Church Council

Pastor: Steve Anderson
Admin. Church Council Chairperson: Murl Kimmel
Board of Trustee Chairperson: Marc Enger
Finance Committee Chairperson: Diana Homann
Pastor Parish Committee Chairperson: Troy Jamison
Lay Leader: Kim Whisman
Lay Member of Annual Conference: Michael Madden
Church Treasurer: Diana Homann
Financial Secretary: Stephanie Drake
UMW President: Janis Maxwell
Parish Nurse: Tina Cole
Recording Secretary: Diana Homann
At Large Members for Council: Tina Cole, Ashley Madden, Susie Hoffman

Other Positions

Church Historian: Stephanie Drake
FOCUS: Katie Kempfues
Office Secretary: Diana Homann

Thank You

We appreciate you more than words can say. Thanks for serving!

Board of Trustees

2020: Dan Pearl, Marc Enger, Ron Vance
2021: Dan Tomlin, Jerry McKinley, Brent Cordes
2022: Sharon Pearl, Wanda Hilty, Dick Maxwell

Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC)

2020: Laura Enger
2021: Wendy Hammitt, Tonya Evans, Gary Boyles
2022: Karen Harris, Marilyn Hirschman
Lay Leader: Kim Whisman
Lay Member of Annual Conference: Michael Madden

Other Committees

Memorial: Stephanie Drake (Chair), Teresa Drinkwater, Judy Wallace, Sue Kopp
Communion: Ashley Madden, Vickey Ziegler

Leap Day Fun Facts

Did you know that leap day is added (every four years) to keep our calendar in align with the Earth's actual yearly revolution which is 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes, and 45 seconds.

Did you know that leaps years don't always come every 4 years. Years evenly divisible by 100 are not leap years (i.e. 1700, 1800, and 1900 were not leap years). However, if the year is divisible by 400 it is a leap year (i.e. 1600 and 2000).

Did you know your odds of being born on a leap day are 1 in 1461.

Did you know that people born on leap day are called leaplings?

Did you know Ashley Reeser was born on Leap Day?



You have an extra day this year. How will you spend it?

Office Contacts

Do you need to contact the office or Pastor Steve? You may call, text, or email to the following.

For Office Needs:

Diana: 309-830-2267 diana.homann56@gmail.com

Church: 309-928-2355 fcwm101@gmail.com

For Immediate Needs:

Steve: 217-737-4948 pastorsteveanderson@gmail.com